

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

GIVING

*His views upon the bill of the House (H. R. 3022) making appropriations
for rivers and harbors.*

AUGUST 14, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Commerce and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

In affixing my signature to the river and harbor appropriation bill, (H. R. 3022,) I deem it my duty to announce to the House of Representatives my objection to some features of the bill and the reason why I sign it. If it was obligatory upon the Executive to expend all the money appropriated by Congress, I should return the river and harbor bill with my objections, notwithstanding the great inconvenience to the public interests resulting therefrom, and loss of expenditures from previous Congresses upon incompleated works.

Without enumerating, many appropriations are made for work of purely a private or local interest, in no sense national. I cannot give my sanction to these, and will take care that, during my term of office, no public money shall be expended upon them. There is very great necessity for economy of expenditures at this time, growing out of the loss of revenue likely to arise from a deficiency of appropriations to insure a thorough collection of the same. The reduction of revenue districts, diminution of special agents, and total abolition of supervisors may result in great falling off of the revenue. It may be a question to consider whether any expenditure can well be authorized under the river and harbor appropriation further than to protect work already done and paid for. Under no circumstances will I allow expenditures upon works not clearly national.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, August 14, 1876.

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